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LETTER DATED 27 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, notwithstanding the three-day cease-fire agreement reached between the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan and the command of the Armenian expeditionary forces in the occupied territory, effective 0000 hours on 25 July, Armenian troops using infantry and armoured vehicles attacked Azerbaijani positions in the direction of the town of Fizuli at 1600 hours on 25 July from the Mengelen-Ata and Bakhtych heights which they had seized the previous evening.

On 26 July, at 0600 hours, the town of Fizuli was subjected to rocket artillery fire from the commanding heights which had been occupied by the Armenian army. The firing became considerably more intense after 1000 hours. A build-up of armoured vehicles of the Armenian armed forces has been observed in the northern and western outskirts of the town.

During the night of 26 July, residential areas of the town of Fizuli were fired on from tanks and armoured vehicles from the direction of the village of Zarger, which had been occupied by the Armenian armed forces during the latest offensive.

According to information in the possession of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, heavy weapons and reinforcements are being introduced from Armenia along the functioning road through Lachin and Kelbajar. An additional 12 tanks have been brought into the Gadrut area which is situated 12 kilometres from Fizuli. An attack by Armenian armed forces is expected in the direction of the town of Goradiz, situated on the Azerbaijani-Iranian frontier, with the aim of cutting off the main road leading to the south-western districts of Azerbaijan - Kubatly, Zangelan, Djebrail and Fizuli - which have a population of 215,000.

Beginning on 25 July, in an effort to create the impression that the cease-fire is being observed in Karabakh, subunits of the Armenian armed forces sharply increased their activities along the frontier between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Frontier villages in Zangelan district are being fired upon along the entire length of the frontier with Armenia. In the evening of 25 July, Armenian subunits attacked the village of Yukhary Emizly from Kafan district.

During the night of 26 July, villages in Kazakh district were fired on from Armenian territory by heavy machine-guns, while at the same time the village of Kilid in the Ordubad district of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic was fired on from the Agarak military base, situated in the Megri district of Armenia.

Following the aggression in the Agdam district of Azerbaijan and the capture of the city of Agdam by Armenian armed forces on 23 July, the city was devastated and set ablaze. In the eastern parts and the suburbs of the city of Agdam, which have been less affected by the shelling and the fighting, Armenian soldiers went on a rampage lasting several days. During the night of 26 July, after they had finished looting, the Armenian troops barbarously set fire to the city, which had previously been home to 60,000 people.

Refugees from the city of Agdam and other occupied villages in the district are at the present time mainly in the neighbouring districts of Barda and Agjabedi and they desperately need, as a bare minimum, humanitarian assistance from the international community.

In the light of all the foregoing, I would request that these facts be taken into account by the Security Council when it meets to consider the question of Armenia's aggression against and occupation of Agdam district and other areas which have been part of Azerbaijani territory from time immemorial.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative